

each evening to list remaining dates. If all dates have been taken, the recording will explain.

4. *To request a date, call the River Office on the day you are eligible at (928) 638-7883, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

If the line is busy, please try again; we are helping another caller. Launch dates will be given out on a first-call, first-served basis to eligible callers.

**When to Call:**

Use the following chart to see the earliest day you will be eligible to call in on the cancellation line:

<u>Waiting-list #</u>	<u>Are eligible to call on:</u>
02#00001 to 02#01499	Monday
02#00001 to 02#02999	Tuesday
02#00001 to 02#04499	Wednesday
02#00001 to 02#05999	Thursday
Any number	Friday

Good Luck!

**Grand Canyon River Office  
Contact Information:**

Postal Service Mailing Address:

**River Permits Office  
P.O Box 129  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129**

Mailing Address for Other Carriers:

**Backcountry Information Center  
Attn: River Permits  
#1 Village Loop Road  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023**

FAX: **(928)638-7844**  
Phone: **(800)959-9164 or (928)638-7843**  
Cancellation Line: **(928) 638-7883**

**Grand Canyon National Park  
River Permits Office  
P.O. Box 129  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300**

**PRESORT STANDARD  
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PERMIT NUMBER G83**



**Waiting-list Numbers,  
April 2002**

Thanks to all of you who expressed your “continuing interest” and renewed your place on the Colorado River Permit waiting list for 2002. We hope you have a great year!

Below we have copied a recent letter from Grand Canyon Superintendent Joseph F. Alston regarding the upcoming River Management Planning effort. As he says, public involvement is essential. We encourage participation from all who are interested.

**Steve Sullivan  
Permits Program Manager**

**Message from our Superintendent:**

On January 17, 2002, four conservation and boating organizations and the Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association joined the National Park Service (NPS) in announcing the settlement of a lawsuit regarding management of the Colorado River and backcountry areas within Grand Canyon National Park.

The lawsuit, most recently styled Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association v. Alston, challenged a February 2000 decision by former Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Robert L. Arnberger to cease work to combine the park’s Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) and draft Wilderness Management Plan into a single document, and to cease further work on the CRMP. The decision was based on the difficulty of resolving several issues prior to formal action on the park’s wilderness recommendation and the lack of available fiscal and human resources to complete the comprehensive planning effort. The settlement commits the NPS to, within 120 days of the order of dismissal, initiate a process to

update the park’s 1989 CRMP with a Record of Decision to follow by December 31, 2004. The settlement also commits the NPS to restart revision of the 1988 Backcountry Management Plan subsequent to the completion of the CRMP.

The collaborative nature of the settlement sets the tone for all interested parties to come together in an effort to resolve many of the long standing issues surrounding management of the Colorado River and backcountry areas within Grand Canyon National Park.

In the year that I have been Superintendent, these issues have been a major focus for me. I am pleased with the progress we’ve made through this settlement and look forward to an open public process to address the many issues that have been brought forward. Issues which include: appropriate level of visitor use – consistent with resource protection mandates, allocation of use between commercial and non-commercial users, the permitting system, level of motorized versus non-motorized use, the range of services provided to the public, and in consultation with the Hualapai Indian Tribe and other appropriate parties, we will consider the continued use of helicopters to transport river passengers to and from Whitmore Wash.

A great deal of time and effort has already been invested in the planning process and numerous sincere and well thought-out comments have been received and analyzed. That work and public involvement will not be lost as we reinitiate the process to revise the CRMP. We are now reviewing the work that was done and the comments received to see what can be retrieved and what work remains to be done.

I certainly understand the frustration of my predecessor, and know it will take all of us working together to move this process forward in a constructive manner. We have a great deal of work ahead of us and a short time to complete it. Knowing we have an ambitious timetable, we

have already secured \$2.4 million dollars in funds from a concessions franchise fee account to be used towards the completion of the revised CRMP. In addition, I have formed an interdisciplinary team of park staff to review, update and prioritize key decisions and information needs. We fully intend to honor the terms of the settlement agreement and complete the CRMP by the end of December in 2004.

I see public involvement as an essential component in the planning process. In initiating this process we will actively seek out and consult with Native American Tribes, interested members of the public, those who have already expressed their interest in this planning process, existing and potential visitors, neighbors, scientists and scholars, concessionaires, cooperating associations, gateway communities, other partners and government agencies.

The NPS will host at least one public meeting to identify issues to be addressed in the plan and one public meeting to receive comments on the draft revised river management plan in, at a minimum, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and Denver.

We look forward to working with you on the revision of the Colorado River Management Plan. You are currently on our mailing list and should receive a notice regarding public scoping later this spring. Should you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please send your request to Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023, Attn: CRMP Planning Team.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston  
Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park

Current Waiting List Statistics

1,027	Number of people that joined the waiting list in February of 2002.
7,601	Number of people on the waiting list this year in 2002. (FYI, in 2001 there were 7,202 people on the list, and back in 1991 there were 4,056 people on the list.)
11	Longest in years that anyone has been on the waiting-list before scheduling.
1991	Year when 02#00001 joined the waiting list. (Was 01#00002 last year and 00#00013 the previous year and both times has chosen to not schedule.)
600	Furthest number down the list in 2001 that was contacted by mail for participation in the 2001 initial scheduling process. 151 people from the top 300 scheduled launch dates this year.
256	Number of Private trips that launched in the 2001 calendar year.
100.42%	Amount of Private allocation used in 2001 Primary Season.
3,620	Participants on Private trips in 2001.
56	Number of primary season dates released through the cancellation line between April 2001 and March 2002.
	59% were claimed by #1 to #2000.
	27% were claimed by #2001 to #4000.
	14% were claimed by #4001 to #6000.
92	Number of secondary season dates released through the cancellation line between April 2001 and March 2002.
	35% were claimed by #1 to #4000.
	27% were claimed by #4001 to #6000.
	38% were claimed by #6001 to #7202.

Continued Use of World Wide Web

At the River Permits Office we continue to seek ways of enhancing both our efficiency and our ability to help waiting-list participants keep informed of important news, deadlines, and opportunities. Newsletters like this one continue to be sent by regular mail both in the spring and fall, cancellation line phone recordings continue to be updated regularly, and messages left by callers continue to be answered as soon as we are able. In addition to all this we are maintaining a web page and using email to send courtesy notices.

We encourage those who have access to the web to view <http://www.nps.gov/grca/river/>. One can find copies of our newsletters, new additions and continuing interest forms, current guidelines and regulations, news about the upcoming Colorado River Management Planning process, relevant Press Releases, and answers to many common questions.

If you have a valid email address but have not been hearing from the River Permits Office recently, we encourage you to write a note to us, include your email address, and ask us to make sure it is entered correctly in our records. Our courtesy emails could help you remember continuing-interest deadlines, hear what dates are being released through the cancellation line, and stay abreast of current information.

Special Release of Launch Dates

From May 20, 2002 through May 24, 2002 the River Permits Office will be releasing 7 primary season and up to 33 additional secondary season launch dates that remain available after this year’s initial scheduling process. While these dates are being released through the cancellation line, this special release is considered a continuation of the initial scheduling process. This means people who claim these trips **will** be eligible to request

deferments or list alternate trip leaders and later pass the trips to them. Other than this, normal cancellation line rules apply.

Launch Dates Remaining Available:

Aug. 2003: 20<sup>1</sup>, 20<sup>2</sup>, 21, 22 (2 launches on 20th)  
Oct. 2003: 14, 15<sup>1</sup>, 15<sup>2</sup>, 18, 21 to 31  
Nov. 2003: almost all dates  
Dec. 2003: almost all dates  
Jan. 2004: almost all dates  
Feb. 2004: almost all dates  
Mar. 2004: almost all dates  
Apr. 2004: 1,3,4,6,7,10,13,14

The Normal Cancellation Line Process:

Shortening one’s wait is as easy as claiming a date through the river-trip cancellation line. Typically this process requires little time, and can result in a tremendous shortening of one’s wait. Many dates are claimed each year by people who recently joined the list. Generally your chances are better if you have waited longer. Here is how it works:

1. *Call the River Office’s toll-free number (800) 959-9164 option 4 over the weekend to hear what dates will be released during the week.*

People outside the U.S. and unable to call the 800 number should use (928) 638-7843 option 4.

2. *Check your waiting-list number and compare it to the list (below) to find out when to call.*

Due to federal holidays and/or other conflicts affecting staffing, the list of eligible days and call-in times may be modified; check the toll-free number (above) for updates.

3. *On the night before you are eligible, call the toll-free number again. The recording will list remaining dates and reiterate the process.*

The recording on the toll-free line will be updated